

The Spirit of St. Paul



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
116 North Thomas St.
Gilman, IL 60938
815.265.4133
Stpaul4133@sbcglobal.net

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Gilman, Illinois January 2025



Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, January 5th at 9:00am and Wednesday, January 8th at 7:00pm will be our Lessons and Carols Service. Join us!

Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul Lutheran Church will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 26 beginning around 10:15am There will be an election of officers and whatever business that comes before the assembly. A copy of the reports and the agenda for the meeting will be available on the Information Center counter. Sunday School classes will meet the day of the meeting. Following the meeting, a delicious brunch will be served!



Reminder for Organizations

Annual Reports from each organization at St. Paul are due in the Church Office on Tuesday, January 21 by noon. The report should include: 1) The name of your ministry; 2) What you did this year; 3) An account of any financial information. If you have any questions, please contact Administrative Assistant Molly Clendenen in the Church Office (815.265.4133) or email her at stpaul4133@sbcglobal.net.



Special Sunday Morning Bible Study

This is the year of Luke. Most of our Gospel readings will be coming from Luke this year. Beginning in mid-January, we will begin an 8 part series on Luke during Adult Sunday School. Please consider joining us if you can. Bible study is not threatening. You can sit silently if you wish. We meet from about 10:30 to 11:30 on Sunday mornings. You are invited to set down roots in the wonder of scripture as we look at the Gospel of Luke.

Tell Me a Little About Yourself



Have you ever been in a job interview? Often times the first question is “Tell me a little about yourself.” The question is meant to be an icebreaker but it often leads to an awkward answer – uh, uh, well my name is Pete.

It is interesting that we have so much trouble talking about ourselves. Over the years I have had the opportunity to tell my story and listen to the stories of others. I always think my story is boring but I have yet to hear a boring story from someone else. I wonder why that is. Do I question my worth?

The season in the Church Year immediately following Christmas is the season of Epiphany. I have often struggled with the meaning of this season. It seemed like an odd place holder until we got to Ash Wednesday. But I have grown to appreciate this season. Epiphany means “revelation.” In other words, Jesus is revealed to us.

If Jesus were asked to tell his story I wonder what he would say. Would he include stories about his youth and young adulthood, stories not in the Bible? Would he begin at his baptism like most of the gospels do? What events formed him into who he was to become?

Those are questions we can only ponder. We are entering Year C in the Revised Common Lectionary cycle. This means that our gospel readings will usually be coming from Luke. Luke is a fun gospel, partly because it contains most of the parables we are familiar with. After all, who doesn't like a good story, a story deep in meaning.

We have the gift of an especially long Epiphany season this year. Epiphany lasts until March 5 so we will hear some stories we often don't hear this year. I pray that Luke will shed some new light on who Jesus is to each one of us.

P
PETE

2024 Iroquois County Toys For Tots Program

The 2024 toy distribution for Iroquois County Toys for Tots was held on Saturday, December 21st in Watseka. Over 300 families and more than 600 children were helped through this distribution. This program was held in 800 communities that covered all 50 states last year. The annual campaign brings communities together to help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children. One of our toy collection boxes was placed at St. Paul's and we were so thankful for all of the items that were donated! You have helped us for several years and everything that you have done has been appreciated.



Update

Cindy Guttendorf, volunteer

St. Paul Women of the ELCA

Prayer & Faith Circle meets Tuesday, January 14th at 2:00pm.

Women of Hope will meet Tuesday, January 28th at 7:00pm. Bible study leader is Angie Wagner and the host is Rita Gray.

Sewing Circle will meet this month on the first and third Thursdays --- January 2nd and January 16th---at 9am in the downstairs meeting room.



Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Lisa Miller, Sherrie Ritchie, Barb Uehle, Amy Voigt, and Mike Flamini

Those residing in skilled care facilities- Charleen Blair, and Karla Dubree.

Members currently serving in the military- Jacob Kuipers, Justin Kuipers, Scott Mayer, and Auston Miller.

Expressing Our Sympathy



We pray for God's comfort and peace for the family and friends of Jim Schoon. He passed away on Friday, November 22nd. His funeral was held at St. Paul's on Monday, December 2nd.

We pray for God's comfort and peace for the family and friends of Jim Kunce who passed away on December 19th. Jim is the father of Jayne (Dan) Mushrush.



Financial Report November 30, 2024

General Account:	\$5,710.77
Capital Improvements:	\$36,470.74
Missions:	\$0.00
Year-to-Date Offerings:	\$167,092.97
Year-to-Date Expenses:	\$162,935.04
Net Contributions:	\$4,157.93

Church Council Meeting Highlights

December 12, 2024

Next meeting will be Jan. 9th at 5:30

The November Treasurer's and Pastor's Reports were reviewed and approved. The general account remains in a positive position.

Pastor attended the NE Conference, Boundaries Workshop, Worship at Acadia Care, and participated in the Community Thanksgiving Concert. Mission Partners for 2025 were discussed including a suggestion to include Campus Ministry and LMC (camp for family and conference for kids).

The sound system will be installed in the new year. The North door is ready to be installed.

The Children's Christmas Program will be Dec. 15th. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Services were discussed. January 5th and 8th will be the Service of Lessons & Carols and there will be no Wednesday evening worship on Jan. 1st. Worship Committee is working on upcoming Lent services.

The proposed 2025 Budget was presented. The increase is only 1.59% from 2024. The budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting (Jan. 26th).

The nominating committee presented a list of 3 members for a 2-year church council term. The one opening for a 1-year term will be presented at the annual meeting.

Church Council

Church Council Officers

President: Lisa Miller 815.383.7020
 Vice President: Tim Hamilton 217.561.3725
 Secretary: JoAnn Arends 815.383.6329

Church Council Members

Darrel Bachman 815.383.3453
 Kristin Borchers 815.471.0424
 Kris Ritzma 815.471.7375
 Barb Uehle 815.265.4942
 815.383.2788

Treasurer Jill Ritzma 815.713.6460
 Financial Secretary: Rita Gray 815.383.9637

Church Staff

Church Office 815.265.4133
 Church email: stpaul4133@sbcglobal.net
 Prayer Requests: stpaul_pastor@sbcglobal.net

Pastor Pete Hinrich 815.383.1498
stpaul_pastor@sbcglobal.net

Church Website: <http://www.stpaulgilman.org>

Administrative Assistant: Molly Clendenen
stpaul4133@sbcglobal.net



Parish
Nurse
News

Blood Pressure Checks

Our Parish Nurse, Mary Ann Schuler, will be available to do blood pressure checks on Sunday, January 19th following worship.



Where to Find Germs in Your Home

We don't want to think about it, but we know it's true: Our homes are filled with germs, bacteria, and viruses. But do you know just where the biggest germ hotspots are in your house? Research has found that they're not always the places we expect. In a small study, researchers checked the houses of volunteers and discovered that coliform bacteria -- the family of bacteria that includes *E. coli* and *Salmonella* -- was found on more than 75% of dish sponges and more than 45% of kitchen sinks. The bathroom fared a little better, with these bacteria on 27% of toothbrush holders and 9% of sink faucets. Here's a rundown of many of the places you're most likely to find germs in the home.

Kitchen

The water, wet surfaces, and raw food make the kitchen a breeding ground for bacteria. These items and surfaces in the kitchen are likely to harbor germs and need regular cleaning:

Did You Know?

Coliform bacteria (which includes *E. coli* and *Salmonella*) is often found in kitchens. To be safe, it's best to regularly clean kitchen sinks and sponges.

- Sink
- Appliance handles and knobs
- Sponges, dishcloths, and towels
- Countertops and light switches
- Cutting boards
- Kitchen doorknob
- Coffee reservoir
- Dishwasher
- Refrigerator door seal
- Spice jars

Bathroom

Because the bathroom is more likely to stay damp, especially if it lacks proper ventilation, it may host mold and mildew in addition to germs, bacteria, and viruses. It's important to clean and disinfect these items in the bathroom regularly:

- Washbasin
- Toothbrush and holder
- Toilet bowl, lid, and handle
- Shower curtain
- Bathtub
- Toilet floor
- Bathroom faucet

- Bathroom light switch
- Towels and washcloths

Living Room

It's the most shared space in the house, making it a prime germ-spreading zone. Areas and items in the living room that are likely to be germ-laden include:

- Remote controls and electronic devices like phones, tablets, computers, and video game controllers
- Throw pillows
- Carpets and rugs

Laundry Room

Because we pile and clean our dirty clothing items here, the laundry room is another hot spot for germs. Items that especially host germs in the laundry room include:

- Dirty laundry
- Washer and dryer handles and control panels
- Light switches and door handles
- Laundry basket

Tips for Cleaning -- and Disinfecting -- Your Home

Hard surfaces


- Clean other surfaces in your home when you can see that they're dirty. If someone in your home is more likely to get sick, such as a child, an older adult, or a person with a weakened immune system, clean them more often
- Clean high-touch surfaces like light switches, doorknobs, and countertops regularly and after you have visitors.
- Use household cleaners with soap or detergent to remove germs. You can also sanitize to reduce leftover germs and disinfect to kill remaining germs after cleaning if you have sick people in your home.
- cleaning and disinfecting electronic items like phones, tablets, and remote controls

Soft surfaces

- Vacuum carpets and rugs regularly and safely dispose of dirt.
- Clean your house's drapes, rugs, carpets, and other soft surfaces according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest water setting when cleaning. Dry completely before reusing.
- Launder clothing and towels with detergent and water temperature as recommended by the manufacturer. Dry immediately and thoroughly.
- Clean laundry baskets with soap or detergent.






Daily Bible Readings
JANUARY

January 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Wednesday, January 1
 Proverbs 1:1-7
 How proverbs should be used

Saturday, January 4
 Psalm 148
 Let all things praise the Lord

Tuesday, January 7
 Ephesians 1:3-14
 Spiritual blessings in Christ

Friday, January 10
 John 12:44-50
 Jesus came to save the world

Monday, January 13
 Isaiah 43:1-7
 Restoration and protection

Thursday, January 16
 Colossians 3:12-17
 New life in Christ

Sunday, January 19
 John 2:1-11
 The wedding at Cana

Wednesday, January 22
 Psalm 16:7-11
 Song of trust in God

Saturday, January 25
 Psalm 36:5-10
 Human sin and God's goodness

Tuesday, January 28
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
 One body, many parts

Friday, January 31
 Galatians 5:13-15
 Christian freedom

Thursday, January 2
 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
 Ministry of the apostles

Sunday, January 5
 John 1:1-18
 The Word became flesh

Wednesday, January 8
 2 Timothy 1:8-14
 Thanksgiving and encouragement

Saturday, January 11
 Psalm 147:12-20
 Sing and praise the Lord

Tuesday, January 14
 Acts 8:14-17
 Receiving the Holy Spirit

Friday, January 17
 Ephesians 4:1-6
 Unity in the body of Christ

Monday, January 20
 Isaiah 62:1-5
 Jerusalem will be saved

Thursday, January 23
 Jeremiah 33:10-13
 Healing after punishment

Sunday, January 26
 Luke 4:14-21
 Jesus returns to Nazareth

Wednesday, January 29
 Isaiah 61:1-7
 The good news of deliverance

Friday, January 3
 James 3:13-18
 Two kinds of wisdom

Monday, January 6
 Jeremiah 31:7-14
 Israel will return to its own land

Thursday, January 9
 Psalm 18:28-36
 David's song of thanks

Sunday, January 12
 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
 The baptism of Jesus

Wednesday, January 15
 Matthew 3:13-17
 Jesus' baptism

Saturday, January 18
 Psalm 29
 The voice of the Lord

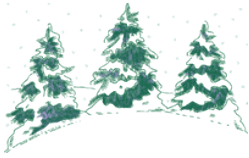
Tuesday, January 21
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 Spiritual gifts

Friday, January 24
 Philemon 1:4-7
 Philemon's love and faith

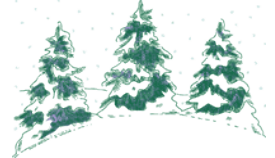
Monday, January 27
 Nehemiah 8:1-10
 Ezra reads God's law to the people

Thursday, January 30
 Leviticus 25:1-24
 The year of jubilee





January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9:00am Sewing Circle 11:00am Meals on Wheels 12:30pm - 4:30 Euchre Group	3 11:00am Meals on Wheels	4
5 9:00am Worship Service - Service of Lessons & Carols 10:00am Fellowship Time 10:30am Adult Sunday School 12:00pm Service on YouTube	6 EPIPHANY 7:00am Foodbank delivery	7	8 7:00pm Worship Service of Lessons & Carols 7:30pm Dartball At Gilman Methodist	9 12:30pm - 4:30 Euchre Group 5:30pm Church Council	10	11
12 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Time 10:15am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Adult Sunday School 12:00pm Service on YouTube	13 1:30pm Care Team	14 9:00am - noon G.O.D.S. Food Pantry Open 2:00pm Prayer & Faith Circle	15 7:00pm Worship Service 7:30pm Dartball Here vs Clifton Lutheran	16 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm - 4:30 Euchre Group 6:00pm Men's Chat & Chow	17	18
19 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Time & Blood Pressure Checks 10:15am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Adult Sunday School 12:00pm Service on YouTube	20	21 12:00pm Annual Reports due 2:00pm Pastor leads worship at Arcadia Care in Clifton	22 7:00pm Worship Service 7:30pm Dartball Here vs Zion	23 12:30pm - 4:30 Euchre Group	24 Newsletter Deadline	25
26 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Annual Congregational Meeting followed by a Brunch 10:15am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Adult Sunday School 12:00pm Service on YouTube	27 11:00am Meals on Wheels	28 9:00am - noon G.O.D.S. Food Pantry Open 11:00am Meals on Wheels 4:00pm - 6:30pm G.O.D.S. Food Pantry Open 7:00pm Women of Hope	29 11:00am Meals on Wheels 7:00pm Worship Service 7:30pm Dartball At Crescent City	30 11:00am Meals on Wheels 12:30pm - 4:30 Euchre Group	31 11:00am Meals on Wheels	



Birthday Blessings to:

03 Mary Ann Landrus
 03 Kessler Peters
 04 Larry Schuette
 05 Auston Miller
 06 Tamie Miller
 08 Gary Johnson
 10 Tom Bayston
 10 Shelley Ponton
 11 Robbin Fouse
 11 Kyli Ritzma
 13 Stacie Schunke
 14 Sharon Henrichs
 14 Karleigh Perzee
 15 Jack Schunke
 15 Jackie Houck
 15 Zac Alvarez
 16 Carolyn Cromwell
 19 Amy Miller
 19 Amy Voigt
 19 Logan Wagner
 20 Jim Leonard
 22 Sydney Haase
 22 Regan Kanosky
 22 Rosemary Sparenberg
 24 Kathy Bailey
 24 Cathy Thorne
 25 London Borchers
 29 Cauan Haase
 29 L'Ree Fetters
 29 Dane Thorne
 29 Kynnedi Kanosky

Sunday Worship Assistants

Acolytes

1/5 Adelynn Greenley
 1/12 Sydney Haase
 1/19 Kyler Sinn
 1/26 Henry Bull

Lectors

1/5 Alison Boutcher
 1/12 Angie Wagner
 1/19 Jill Ritzma
 1/26 Deb Preisser



Communion Assistants

1/5 Dan Mushrush, Carol Hanlon, Kris Ritzma
 1/12 Barb Uehle, Eva McGill, Deb Bayston
 1/19 Jill Ritzma, Bob Kraft, Deb Monk
 1/26 Abby Kraft, Landen Kraft, Logan Wagner

Ushers

Larry Decker & Gary Perzee

“Clickers”

1/5 Jill Ritzma
 1/12 Bernie Hinrich
 1/19 Robert Sinn
 1/26 Jill Ritzma

Treasurer's Helpers

Ron & Kris Ritzma

Altar Guild

12/29-01/05 Ruth Schroeder, Peg Classen, Eva McGill, JoAnne Arends
 01/06-01/12 Carol Hanlon, Lisa Miller, Rita Gray
 01/13-01/19 Mary Ann Schuler, Kris Ritzma, Tamie Miller, Jan Villwock
 01/20-01/26 Deb Monk, Deb Bayston, Jan Schuette
 01/27-02/02 Nina Hubert, Deb Preisser, Kristin Borchers

Wednesday Worship Assistants

1/1 No Service
 1/8 Cindy Guttendorf
 1/15 Jill Ritzma
 1/22 Ashton Miller
 1/29 Kris Ritzma

